

associated uniquely with each component in the  $N$ th coupling step (2) and capable of forming a bond to the solid support or to the  $(N-1)$ th component, wherein said fluorophore tag represents a bit of a binary code, and comprises zero, one or more than one fluorescent dye, multiple fluorescent dyes, said dye(s) being spectrally distinguishable by excitation wavelength, emission wavelength, excited-state lifetime or emission intensity,

- (4) recombining all  $M(N)$  batches and cleaving any protecting group present at a group which is to participate in a further coupling step; as to form a compound having  $N$  components;
- vi) means for performing an assay capable of indicating that any compound in the library either while bound to or cleaved from its solid support has the property of interest;
- vii) means for collecting spectral fluorescence data for each respective solid support so as to determine respective relative abundance of the fluorophore tags bound thereto; and
- viii) means for analyzing the collected spectral fluorescence data by comparing the respective relative abundances of the fluorophore tags determined in step vii) so as to determine the unique reaction series for the component, thereby identifying the compound having the property of interest.

#### REMARKS

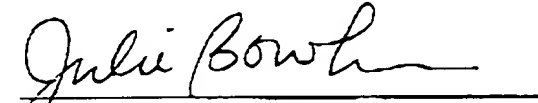
Claims 17, 19-21, 23, 25-29, 36, 56, 58-60, 62-66 and 72, corresponding to the entirety of the claims pending in the subject application, have been canceled without prejudice. In their place, new claims 74 to 97 have been added. The new claims correspond to now canceled claims 17, 19-21, 23, 25-29, 36, 56, 58-60, 62-66 and 72, but have been amended to no longer depend on canceled claims and to more clearly define the invention. Entry of the claims as amended is

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respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully maintain that the claims are now in condition for allowance. No fee is required in connection with filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fee is deemed required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1570.

Respectfully submitted,



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